

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 79

By Tracy

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Nobel Prize winner Dr. James M. Buchanan on the celebration of his ninetieth birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those Tennesseans who, through their extraordinary efforts, have sought to improve the quality of life for all mankind, receiving international acclaim and accolades for their dedication to their fellow man; and

WHEREAS, one such outstanding Tennessean is Nobel Prize winner Dr. James M. Buchanan, who celebrated the occasion of his ninetieth birthday on October 3, 2009; and

WHEREAS, James Buchanan was born on October 2, 1919, in Murfreesboro; a member of a distinguished family, he is the grandson of John P. Buchanan, Tennessee governor during the 1890s and former president of the Farmers' Alliance; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Buchanan earned his Bachelor of Science degree in 1940 from Middle Tennessee State College, now Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU); and

WHEREAS, James Buchanan continued his pursuit of education, earning a Master of Arts degree from the University of Tennessee in 1941; and

WHEREAS, drafted into the military, he trained as a naval officer and spent much of World War II serving at Pacific Fleet Headquarters on the operations Staff of Admiral Chester W. Nimitz; he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal in 1945; and

WHEREAS, after the war, James Buchanan returned to his academic studies, earning a Ph.D. in economics in 1948 from the University of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, in a remarkable academic career, Dr. Buchanan taught at numerous institutions for higher education and became one of the primary figures in the development of the economic theory of Public Choice; and

WHEREAS, in 1986, Dr. James Buchanan won the Nobel Prize in Economics for his development of the contractual and constitutional bases for the theory of economic and political decision making; he is often identified as the father of Public Choice Theory; and

WHEREAS, as a result of his unprecedented work in the field of economics, Dr. Buchanan holds an abundance of honorary degrees from institutions all over the world, including Honorary Doctorates from the University of Valladolid in Spain, the Universidad del Pacifico in Peru, the University of Porto in Portugal, the University of Bucharest in Romania, the Academy for Economic Studies in Romania, the University of Catania in Italy, City University of London, George Mason University, the New University of Lisbon in Portugal, the University of Valencia in Spain, the University of Zurich in Switzerland, the University of Giessen in Germany, the Libera University Internazionale degli Studi Sociali in Italy, and Ball State University; and

WHEREAS, in addition to winning the world-renown Nobel Prize, Dr. James Buchanan has been the recipient of a great many honors and awards for his innovative economic work, including an Outstanding Alumnus Award from MTSU, Certificate of Honor from the Freedom Foundation, Frank E. Seidman Distinguished Award in Political Economy, Distinguished Senior Fellow Award from the Cato Institute, Outstanding Faculty Award from the Virginia State Council on Higher Education, Lord Foundation Award for Leadership in Wealth Creation, George Washington Honor Medal from the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge in Pennsylvania, Distinguished Alumnus Award from the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, Legion de la Libertad award from the Instituto Cultural Ludwig von Mises in Mexico City, and the International "Uberto Bonino" Award for Science, Arts, and Letters in Italy, among countless others; and

WHEREAS, he has served with acumen and alacrity in a variety of leadership roles, advancing economic theory and striving tirelessly to improve the lives of people of every nationality; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Buchanan has been employed as a professor at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville; Florida State University in Tallahassee, where he stood as Chairman of the Economics Department from 1954 to 1956; the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, where he chaired the Department of Economics from 1965 to 1961; University of California in Los Angeles; Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University in Blacksburg, where he served as General Director of the Center for Study of Public Choice from 1969 until 1983; and George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, where he served as the General Director for the Center for Study of Public Choice from 1983 until 1988; and

WHEREAS, Dr. James Buchanan has also shared his expertise as a visiting professor at several universities, including his time as a Fulbright Research Scholar in Italy, a Ford Faculty Fellow, a Fulbright Visiting Professor at Cambridge University, a Visiting Professor at the London School of Economics, a J. Fish Smith Professor of Economics at Brigham Young University, and a Visiting Professor at the University of Miami Law School; and

WHEREAS, a respected leader in his field, James Buchanan has served as president of many associations and societies, including the Southern Economic Association, the Western Economic Association, and the Mount Pelerin Society, and he also served as the president of the American Economic Association and as a member of the Royal Economic Society and the Public Choice Society; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Buchanan contributed to the advancement of a number of committees, organizations and boards, including the International Institute for Economic Research, the Domestic Studies Program in the Hoover Institution at Stanford University, the International Center for Economic Policy Studies, the Fraser Institute in Vancouver, Canada, the Mises Fellowship Advisory Committee at the Center for Libertarian Studies, the Commission for a Competitive Currency, the National Academic Advisory Board for the Law and Economics Center at the University of Miami, *Libertas*, the Pacific Institute for Public Policy Research, the Scientific Council at the Carl Menger Institute in Austria, the Reason Foundation, FUNDEMOS, Omicron Delta Epsilon, and the Österreichisches College in Austria; and

WHEREAS, additionally, Dr. Buchanan has stood as the Senior Advisory Editor for the *Social Science Journal*, as a member of the Editorial Board for *Philosophy of the Social*

*Sciences*, as a member of the board of *Biblioteca della liberta*, and as a member of the Scientific Committee of *Etica e questioni pubbliche*; and

WHEREAS, he has also served as Honorary Vice President of the David Hume Institute in Scotland, a member of the Honorary Board of Scholars of the Liberty Park Foundation in Colorado, a Corresponding Member of the Lisbon Academy of Sciences and of the Academia Nacional de Ciencias Economicas in Argentina, a member of the 1993 through 1995 Selection Committees for The Frank E. Seidman Distinguished Award in Political Science, the Grand Opening Committee of the CATO Institute, and Chairman of the 1994 Selection Committee for The Frank E. Seidman Distinguished Award in Political Science; and

WHEREAS, MTSU has named its most prestigious scholarship program in Dr. Buchanan's honor; and

WHEREAS, as Dr. James Buchanan approaches his tenth decade, he continues to support MTSU and contribute significantly to his profession; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Buchanan's unparalleled work in the field of economics, and his extraordinary civic involvement has truly enhanced the quality of life for others; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Dr. James M. Buchanan for his outstanding scholarship and continued public service, and to join with him in the celebration of his ninetieth birthday; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Dr. James M. Buchanan on the celebration of his ninetieth birthday, commending him for his exemplary achievements in economics and extending to him our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.